

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 11 to 19 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 20 and 21 have been amended. Claims 22 to 42 have been added. The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method for varying a printing length of a press comprising exchanging a sleeve-like cover as recited in claim ~~14~~ 22 with a further sleeve-like cover of a different external diameter.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method of fitting a plate-like printing form to a sleeve-like cover as recited in claim ~~10~~ 22 comprising the steps of:

introducing a leading edge of the edges of printing form into the slit in the sleeve-like cover of the printing form;

winding the printing form onto an outer circumferential surface of the sleeve-like cover;
and

introducing a trailing edge of the edges of printing form into the slit in the sleeve-like cover of the printing form,

the leading edge and the trailing edge of the printing form being clamped between the retaining force element and a wall of the slit.

Claim 22 (new): A printing cylinder apparatus comprising:

a cylinder including at least one lever element;

a sleeve-like cover for the cylinder including material having a slit running parallel to an axis of rotation of the cover and at least one recess in an inner circumferential surface of the cover, the at least one lever element being engageable in the at least one recess in order to produce a tangential tension of the sleeve-like cover when the cover is fitted to the cylinder, the at least one lever element being adapted in such a way that the slit becomes narrower when the at least one lever element produces the tension;

at least one retaining element, edges of a printing form being fixable in the slit via the at least one retaining force element;
the cover being adapted to hold a plate-like printing form.

Claim 23 (new): The printing cylinder apparatus as recited in claim 22 wherein the cylinder includes at least one protrusion protruding from the cylinder and the at least one recess includes a first recess and a second recess, the at least one lever element being engageable in the first recess and the at least one protrusion engageable in the second recess.

Claim 24 (new): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the lever is rotatable by a rotating and tensioning device.

Claim 25 (new): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the cylinder is one of a printing form cylinder, a rubber blanket cylinder or a transfer cylinder.

Claim 26 (new): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the at least one recess is a groove running parallel to the axis of rotation of the cover, the cover being removable from the cylinder and being fittable to the cylinder in a direction parallel to an axis of rotation of the cylinder.

Claim 27 (new): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the slit has walls and the walls can match each other in a form fitting manner.

Claim 28 (new): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 27 wherein the at least one lever element can produce a tension in a circumferential direction of the cover until the walls of the slit contact each other.

Claim 29 (new): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 28 wherein the cylinder has a central duct running substantially parallel to an axis of rotation of the cylinder, the central duct capable of supplying compressed air, a number of air outlet ducts originating from the central duct, wherein the sleeve-like cover has air ducts that align with the air outlet ducts in such a way that compressed air supplied through the central duct can emerge from the air ducts on the

surface of the sleeve-like cover when the cover is tensioned in the circumferential direction of the cover by the at least one lever element and the walls of the slit contact each other.

Claim 30 (new): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 27 further comprising one of a plate-like printing form or a plate-like printing blanket having bent-over edges, the bent-over edges clamped in the slit via the cover being pretensioned by the at least one lever element, the walls of the slit being the at least one retaining force element.

Claim 31 (new): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 27 further comprising one of a sleeve-like printing form or a sleeve-like printing blanket on the cover.

Claim 32 (new): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the at least one retaining force element is fixed to the sleeve-like cover.

Claim 33 (new): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the slit widens trapezoidally from an outer circumferential surface into an interior of the sleeve-like cover or the slit is symmetrical to a plane in which an axis of symmetry of the sleeve-like cover runs.

Claim 34 (new): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the edges of the slit formed with the outer circumferential surface are rounded.

Claim 35 (new): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the retaining force element includes a first and a second leaf spring for pressing on the edges of a printing form in the slit against a wall of the slit.

Claim 36 (new): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 35 wherein the edges include leading and trailing edges and the wall includes a first wall and a second wall, the first spring being adapted to press the leading edge against the first wall and the second spring being adapted to press the trailing edge against the second wall.

Claim 37 (new): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 35 further comprising one of a plate-like printing form or a plate-like printing blanket, a leading edge of the printing form or

printing blanket being clamped between the first leaf spring and a first wall of the slit and a trailing edge of the printing form or the printing blanket being clamped between the second leaf spring and a second wall of the slit.

Claim 38 (new): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the cover has a layer structure with a number of layers.

Claim 39 (new): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the slit is a single slit in which the edges of a printing form are fixable in the slit.

Claim 40 (new): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the material permits elastic deformation of the sleeve-like cover at least in the radial direction so that an internal diameter or an external diameter of the sleeve-like cover is variable.

Claim 41 (new): The method recited in claim 21 wherein the step of clamping the trailing edge includes clamping the trailing edge between the retaining force element and another wall of the slit.

Claim 42 (new): The method recited in claim 21 wherein the method is carried out outside of a press.